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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/566,646	03/30/2006	Mitsunobu Suda	126822	7535
25944	7590	01/20/2010	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850				HINZE, LEO T
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2854				
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/566,646	SUDA, MITSUNOBU
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	LEO T. HINZE	2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2009.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 12-14, 16-19 and 21-29 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-18 and 21-29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 12-14, 19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20100106.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 06 October 2009, with respect to claims 12-14 and 19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 12-14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ota, JP 2001-30597 A (hereinafter Ota; citations are to the English language machine translation available from the JPO web site) in view of Machinery's Handbook, 26<sup>th</sup> Edition.

- a. Regarding claim 12:

Ota teaches a stamp comprising: a first face (A, Fig. 1) for forming a print image on a stamping object; a second print face (B, Fig. 1) for forming a print image on said stamping object by synthesizing with the print image of said first print face; a damper member that presses said first print face so that said first print face in a stamping direction is projected more than said second print face in the stamping direction with elasticity at the time of no stamping and is compressed so that said first print face and

said second print face are matched with each other with a reaction force applied to said first print face from said stamping object at the time of stamping (damper 11, Fig. 3; it appears that the configuration in Fig. 1 is a configuration "at the time of stamping," and when armor body 11 is unlocked, spring 11 causes second print face A to move upward. See ¶ 0020); and a supporting case (1, Fig. 3) fixed in a main body case (11, Figs. 1-3), the supporting case having a movable print body disposed therein (5, Fig. 3), at least a part of the main body case completely surrounds the supporting case (Figs. 2, 3), wherein said supporting case has a collar having a plane parallel to a direction perpendicular to the stamping direction at a portion that said damper member makes contact with (spring 9 contacts collar of 1, Fig. 3).

Ota does not teach wherein the first face is a first print face for forming a print image on a stamping object; an entire mating surface of the damper member mates with a planar mating surface of the collar. One cannot discern from the figures whether the ends of spring 9 are ground.

Machinery's Handbook teaches that it is well known in the art that compression springs may have either ground or unground ends (Fig. 12, p. 298), and that springs with ground ends are capable of standing upright (pp. 297-298).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ota to use a spring with ground ends, because one having ordinary skill in the art would recognize that this substitution of elements well-known in the art would predictably provide a spring member with planar mating

surfaces, thereby allowing the spring to stand on its own, and providing a mating surface with greater contact area.

b. Regarding claim 13, the combination of Ota and Machinery's Handbook teaches the stamp according to claim 12, as discussed in the rejection of claim 12 above. The combination of Ota and Machinery's Handbook also teaches wherein a length over which said damper member is capable of stretching in the stamping direction when not compressed is larger than a length over which said first print face is projected with respect to said second print face at the time of no stamping (Ota: it appears that spring 9 can compress to allow faces A and B to be even at a time of printing, but spring 11 extends enough to allow bands 5 to be moved and the second print face changed, Figs. 1 and 3, ¶ 0020).

c. Regarding claims 14 and 19, the combination of Ota and Machinery's Handbook teaches the stamp according to claims 13 and 12, respectively, as discussed in the rejection of claims 13 and 12 above. The combination of Ota and Machinery's Handbook also teaches a movable print body fixed on a main body case and in which a plurality of said second print faces are provided protrudedly along the outside face of a belt supported movably (Ota: 5, Fig. 3); and a fixed print body provided movably in the stamping direction with respect to the main body case (Ota, B, Fig. 1), having an exposure hole (Ota: see opening in 12 (B in Fig. 1), Fig. 3) for exposing one of said second print faces of said movable print body out of the main body case and having said first print face for forming a single print image by synthesizing with a print image of said second print face exposed from the exposure hole, wherein said damper member

is provided between said movable print body and said fixed print body such that it always keeps contact therewith (Ota: "it" always keeps contact therewith the fixed print body through frame 10 and other various and sundry components, Fig. 3).

***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leo T. Hinze whose telephone number is 571.272.2864. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on 571.272.2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Leo T. Hinze  
Patent Examiner  
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06 January 2010

/Judy Nguyen/  
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